

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2012**  
**6:30-8:30pm EST**  
**Comfort Inn, Newberry, MI**

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*Chair: Dick Pershinske   Vice-Chair: Glenn Moll   Secretary: Ginny Giddings*

**Council Members Present**

Tom Buckingham	Tim Hass
Bob DeVillez	Jim Hoy
Dale DuFour	Michael Lawless
Gary Ellenwood	Glenn Moll
Jason Garvon	Dick Pershinske
Ginny Giddings	Chad Radka
Gary Gorniak	

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Bill Becks	Mike Meier
Jim Duke	Mike Patrick
Ron Ford	Ed Radecki

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons**

Greg Andrews, Economic Development Liaison, Marquette  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette  
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement, Newberry  
Rich Hill, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Newberry  
David Price, Forest Resources Division, Lansing  
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Newberry  
Stacy Welling Haughey, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Marquette  
Kerry Wieber, Forest Resources Division, Roscommon

**Call To Order**

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Pershinske** noted one change to the agenda, moving *Crisp Point Project Update* to follow DNR Division Reports. He asked if there were any other changes or additions; none were brought forth. **Mr. Buckingham motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. DuFour seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Duke, Mr. Ford, Mr. Meier, Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Radecki. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the minutes as presented; none were raised. **Mr. Lawless motioned to approve the October 18, 2012 EUPCAC Meeting**

**minutes as submitted; Ms. Giddings seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Duke, Mr. Ford, Mr. Meier, Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Radecki. Motion carried.**

### **Chair Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** provided a brief update on private forest management. He stated there has been opposition to the current philosophy. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is moving forward, hiring foresters and involving conservation districts. Private industry is involved and an advisory committee has been established, with one meeting held to date. Adequate funding is an issue and will continue to be.

**Chair Pershinske** provided another update on the annual Michigan Farm Bureau meeting recently held, in which 450 delegates approved all of their policies for the following year. The policy on baiting was initially removed, but put back in, and is now policy. The Farm Bureau took a strong position in supporting a wolf hunting season in some form. Farm Bureau staff worked diligently in getting the wolf declared as a big game species. It has passed the Senate, cleared out of the House Committee and now sits on the House floor. The Governor has indicated he will sign it. It is a first step towards a hunting season.

**Chair Pershinske** stated he recently attended the second wolf forum meeting, which was put together by the DNR through the wolf management plan. It was a long day, but the group finally reached some conclusions. Mr. Adam Bump, who sought input from stakeholders at this meeting, is responsible for drafting a document to be presented to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The consensus from the group is the management plan definitely states a legal hunt is a method of control approved in the plan; it does not state how or when. A hunt is a prudent tool to use in wolf control. **Mr. Minzey** added if the DNR is asked to develop a hunting season, they will do so consistent with the management plan. The plan does allow for a management hunt, not a recreational hunt. **Chair Pershinske** asked for comments from Mr. Dale McNamee, representative for Senator Casperson; **Mr. McNamee** agreed the plan indicates a hunt can be held for management purposes and includes if wolves are impacting the deer herd. Some folks argue the lethal control methods take care of the problem, but it's only short term. Certain U.P. counties are having major problems. **Chair Pershinske** stated a hunt may take away the argument of illegal activity. **Mr. Hoy** asked if the hunts in Minnesota and Wisconsin help the case for a hunt in Michigan; **Mr. Minzey** replied, in some degree. There are lawsuits against both of the hunts in those states. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** asked if groups can provide comment; **Mr. Minzey** stated not at this point, but in the near future.

Lastly, **Chair Pershinske** noted at the Farm Bureau meeting, all three directors from the Departments of Environmental Quality, Agriculture and Natural Resources, along with the Governor and newly selected Dean of Agriculture spoke. He doesn't remember a time when all of these people were on the same page. It was a breath of fresh air. Comments from DNR Director Creagh indicated an extensive land management analysis will be done to take existing state lands and put them in some use by the general public. In the U.P., it could be significant.

### **Public Comment**

- **Mr. Stephen King** asked if there is a wolf hunt and it's for controlling problem animals, will a wolf hunt be allowed on farms and how will problem animals be targeted. **Chair Pershinske** stated Mr. Bump will be working on how a hunt would be organized.
- **Mr. Joe Caswell** stated farmers and people complain about others feeding animals, causing wolves to come in. He said fishers are the biggest killer of domestic cats. **Chair Pershinske** stated in 2013 another wolf count will be done in Gogebic County. He provided a few wolf population statistics that were given at the meeting.
- **Ms. Giddings** stated she thought the Council learned within the last year depredation was under control with the help of grant funding. **Mr. Minzey** stated there was a two-year grant. Some farms haven't had any depredation since control methods were implemented (i.e. Pyrenees, fencing). Others have had several depredation cases, mostly in the west end of the U.P. **Ms. Giddings** asked if there will continue to be publicity and education on helping farmers prevent depredation; **Mr. Minzey** replied yes, public education is a large component of the wolf management plan.
- **Mr. Caswell** stated he's heard different numbers reported on domestic animals killed by wolves. **Chair Pershinske** stated 211 incidents took place; some involved multiple deaths, some didn't involve any deaths. **Mr. Minzey** indicated he will obtain the correct numbers for the next meeting.

### **Reports**

1. Stacy Welling Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:
  - **Mrs. Welling Haughey** welcomed Mr. Dale McNamee from Senator Casperson's office to the meeting. She also recognized a few Lake Superior State University students that were in attendance.
  - A copy of the local Recreation Passport Perks are in the meeting packets. Multiple savings are available if you have a Recreation Passport.
  - Ask the DNR is airing tonight on Public TV13.
  - Her division report includes notes from the November NRC meeting; the December NRC meeting is next week.
  - The West UPCAC meeting will be held on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in Houghton.
  - Two Pure Michigan winter recreational You-Tube videos were played for the Council; one included Council member Jim Duke.
2. DNR Division Reports: Written staff reports were provided to Council members on November 29, 2012. The following are current updates to those reports.
  - Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources: **Mr. Stampfly** noted he did not have any further updates to his report.
  - Rich Hill, Parks & Recreation: **Mr. Hill** stated the DNR is working with Pure Michigan on developing a program to recruit more folks in the Detroit area to purchase the recreation passport due to its large population base. There is some correlation in proximity to a state park and purchasing the recreation passport. **Mr. Lawless** asked if the Secretary of State is the only outlet; **Mr. Hill** stated the passport can be purchased at state parks, but the perks program is not included. Several DNR offices also sell the passport. **Mr. Lawless** asked if there was any value in combining it with the hunting license; **Mr. Hill** stated not at this time. Other questions focused on a use card, families with two vehicles, etc. **Mr. Hill**

stated the ultimate goal is to get the participation percentage higher than what it is and to encourage those that haven't purchased the passport to do so.

- Terry Minzey, Wildlife: **Mr. Minzey** provided a preliminary report on the recent rifle season. The number of people registering their deer at the Newberry station was up 50%. **Mr. Gorniak** asked about the number of kills; **Mr. Minzey** stated that a postcard survey will be sent out after the first of the year to determine this figure. **Ms. Giddings** asked if there was any estimate of what the impact beech bark disease will have on deer in the future; **Mr. Minzey** stated there is no way to tell. Beech bark tends to affect more bear than deer. **Mr. Stampfly** indicated that there has been some positive movement; a resistant beech has been found and some have been planted on an experimental basis. **Mr. Minzey** indicated they are planting thousands of oak for deer. He also explained a particular Strickler grouse management area in response to Mr. Gorniak's question.
- Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement: **Mr. Hagy** indicated it was a busy deer season in the area; illegal kills of deer were up with several cases of shooting a deer and getting the license afterwards. He indicated they've been receiving questions on citations for multiple offenses; more serious offenses are always cited and others are on a case-by-case basis.
- Greg Andrews, Economic Development Liaison: **Mrs. Welling Haughey** introduced Mr. Andrews to the Council. **Mr. Andrews** indicated he is working on economic development for the DNR by leveraging the department's assets in a meaningful and mindful way. He stated is thrilled to be working for the DNR.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Council Membership Update:**

- **Chair Pershinske** congratulated members whose terms were renewed by the CAC Selection Committee in November: Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Ellenwood, Dr. Garvon, Ms. Giddings, Mr. Hass, and Mr. Radka.
- In addition, the Selection Committee also chose four new members and three alternates, who would be called to serve if any openings become available within the next year. The four new members will attend the first meeting of the new year. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated the CAC Selection Committee is comprised of three community stakeholders (representatives from the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority, and UP Whitetails) and three DNR staff (note: the stakeholders change periodically). Selections are based on current member demographics, including counties with Council representatives, stakeholder groups represented, etc.
- This is the last meeting for three Council members Mr. Bob DeVillez, Mr. Dale DuFour, and Mr. Mike Meier. **Chair Pershinske** thanked them for their years of service to the Council and DNR, and presented them with a certificate of appreciation.
- **Chair Pershinske** noted according to the Council bylaws, any member that misses four or more consecutive meetings can be removed from the Council by a majority vote. There are two members in this situation, one who has missed five and one who has missed four meetings. **Mr. Buckingham motioned to remove the Council members mentioned; Ms. Giddings seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Duke, Mr. Ford, Mr. Meier, Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Radecki. Motion carried.** The Council members will be notified in writing.

2. *Crisp Point Project Update (moved up from New Business)*: **Mrs. Welling Haughey** noted that Ms. Kerry Wieber from the Forest Resources Division is here to provide an update. **Ms. Wieber** stated the Crisp Point project is a land acquisition with acreage in Luce and Chippewa Counties, including 2.5 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. It is a forest legacy project which is part of the federal forest program and has been in process for 3-4 years. The property is currently privately owned. Initially the Nature Conservancy was approached to buy the land. However, the owners felt it was more strategic for the DNR to have the land to open it up for the public. The project is ranked #3 in the country on the list of federal forest projects. The acquisition ensures snowmobile trail #8 will be secured. There are 3,600 acres of marketable timber on this property, which is good for the local economy. DNR staff has met with Chippewa & Luce County officials multiple times to answer questions. Not only will there be an increase in PILT payments, a private donor has provided funds to ensure PILT payments in case the state cannot make payment. No state money is involved in this project. The DNR has worked with several stakeholders and will likely have a closing ceremony next summer.
- **Mr. Hoy** asked if the State of Michigan will be the owner of this land; **Ms. Wieber** stated yes, managed by the Forest Resources Division.
  - **Chair Pershinske** asked if the Council wanted to support this project. **Mr. Buckingham** stated that it doesn't appear to have any ramifications to the county's tax base and it opens up further access to land and more harvesting, all being positive. **Mr. Lawless** agreed. **Mr. Hoy** asked if there was a time limitation where the taxes might lessen; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** explained the PILT fund that is available for this project in the event the state cannot make its payment. Roads and the snowmobile trail will remain open. **Mr. Buckingham motioned that the EUPCAC support the Crisp Point Project; Mr. Lawless seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Duke, Mr. Ford, Mr. Meier, Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Radecki. Motion carried.**
  - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked about the potential of a new limestone quarry in the area. **Ms. Wieber** stated a Canadian company with multiple limestone mine operations approached the DNR and have secured use permits to do some test drilling for limestone. They have submitted an application to purchase 5,000 acres, but the location is not specified; the application will go through the normal process. The company is still in the middle of exploration. In some areas, the DNR owns the mineral rights, and in others, the mineral rights are owned by a third party. There isn't a lot of information to pass along yet. **Chair Pershinske** stated there is new legislation on severance tax and how minerals will be taxed and who would get the money. **Mr. Buckingham** asked if there were any eminent domain issues; **Ms. Wieber** replied no. **Mr. Hoy** asked if the Gulliver quarry was being expanded; **Ms. Wieber** stated she hasn't heard anything about this quarry.
  - **Ms. Wieber** also discussed the Land Cap Bill. It is a requirement in the legislation that the DNR completes a land management plan by October 2014 and submits it to legislature for approval. The DNR is in the beginning stages and has an aggressive completion timeline of the end of April 2013. The plan will include measurable performance goals, objectives for acquisition and disposal of land and the establishment of an advisory committee. Stakeholder groups will be asked for input, including the EUPCAC, in the near future. The DNR is working with the public and is keeping the process very open.
3. *Agenda Survey Topic #2/Forest Management Activities*: **Chair Pershinske** introduced Mr. David Price, Forest Planning & Inventory Unit Supervisor from Lansing, who will be providing a

presentation on the Regional State Forest Management Plan. **Mr. Price** indicated the DNR is currently seeking public review on the plan. Copies of his presentation and a summary of the plan for the East U.P. are included in the meeting packets.

- *Background and Timeline:* Three draft plans were created, one for the Western UP, one for the Eastern UP, and one for the northern Lower Peninsula. Internal review/editing was completed in September 2013, and the public review is currently in progress. A revision process will take place after the public review period is over, with an anticipated approval in May 2013.
- *Plan Structure:* The plan includes a historical perspective; current forest conditions; management area direction; special resource areas; monitoring, reporting, review and revision sections; appendices, and a glossary.
- *Primary Focus of Plans:* The draft plans ensure a consistent, sustainable supply of timber products and wildlife habitat. Proposed timber sales include approximately 579,500 acres over the next decade (an average of 58,000 acres per year).
- *Eastern Upper Peninsula:* Proposed timber sales in the Eastern UP include approximately 113,700 acres over the next decade, or an average of about 11,000 acres per year. In the Eastern UP, there are 33 management areas; there are 101 management areas in the entire state.
- *Section 4 - Management Area Direction:* Section 4 is one to pay particular attention to. It includes a summary of use and management, a 10-year projection of harvest acres, cover-type management direction, featured wildlife species direction, rare species direction, forest health issues and fire management issues. **Mr. Minzey** further explained the featured wildlife species direction. He and Mr. Stampfly also answered questions by Ms. Giddings regarding the red pine area near the Carp River. **Ms. Giddings** asked about maple tree harvest; **Mr. Stampfly** explained the uneven-aged silvaculture process. **Mr. Minzey** explained the audits that are required by law to ensure the DNR meets certain standards.
- *Section 4 - Cover Type:* A graph of the aspen covertime analysis by acres and age class were shown.
- *Where can these plans be found:* The plans can be located on the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/regionalforestplans](http://www.michigan.gov/regionalforestplans). For those without internet access, CD's can be provided.
- *Questions to consider:* When reviewing the plan, keep in mind the following: do you understand the plans, is anything missing, what do you like or dislike, are your needs as a forest stakeholder being considered in the plan, and how would you improve the plans.
- *After Public Review:* Once the public review period is completed, public feedback will be compiled and analyzed, follow-up meetings will be held, the drafts will be revised with final versions prepared, approval will be obtained, the final plans will be posted, and the plans will then be implemented.
- *Questions or Comments:* Comments can be emailed to [forestplancomments@michigan.gov](mailto:forestplancomments@michigan.gov). In the Eastern UP, contact Kristen Matson, Forest Resources Planning Specialist or Sherry MacKinnon, Wildlife Ecologist, both in Newberry at 906-293-5131. Comments must be submitted by ~~January 2, 2013~~. **NOTE: As of December 20, 2012, the comment period has been extended to March 8, 2013.**

**Chair Pershinske** asked what prompted the DNR to put these plans together; **Mr. Price** indicated that some plans were developed over time on an as needed basis, however,

operational plans were not previously available for these management areas. Legislatively, the DNR is required to do the plans and comply with audit requirements. He noted this is not part of the Land Cap legislation. **Chair Pershinske** thanked Mr. Price for his presentation and for making the trip to the UP.

**Chair Pershinske** asked if the Council needed any follow-up. **Mr. DeVillez** indicated that it's very important that comments come from the local people. He's only read half of the plan so far and feels it would be hard for the Council to comment on it. **Mr. Minzey** indicated Council members should focus on Section 4 of the plan. **Mr. DeVillez** added the chapter on inventory and assessment where it discusses four large inventory assessment projects are also important to review. **Chair Pershinske** asked to have an update for the February agenda. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** reminded everyone to review and provide comments.

4. Agenda Survey Topic #3/Deer Management: **Mr. Minzey** noted a summary of the UP Deer Advisory Team (UPDAT) recommendations is included in the meeting packets. He asked if there were any questions. **Mr. Buckingham**, representative on the UPDAT for the Council, asked that the Council contact him if there are any questions or comments regarding the three recommendations so that he can bring them to the next UPDAT meeting. **Mr. Minzey** added there will be time to bring the topic back to the EUPCAC to allow time for discussion and to share with stakeholder groups. There will be no decision made at the next UPDAT meeting; only a discussion of the recommendations.
  - **Mr. Minzey** also added that he received an email stating that the full House may be voting on the wolf hunt bill this evening possibly. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated she spoke with Senator Casperson who will be working all night on the bill. **Chair Pershinske** noted the Wolf Forum as it is, is solidified in the legislation.
5. Nuisance Animal Control Permit Update: **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated the presentation made to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) on November 8, 2012 is included in the meeting packets and is available online. At this NRC meeting, the decision was made to pull the memo up for approval off the agenda to allow further discussions with more involvement from stakeholders. There were too many questions and concerns brought forth. Updates will be provided to the Council as they become available. If anyone is interested in being a part of those discussions, please let her know.
6. Sandhill Crane Update: **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated that she spoke with Mr. Russ Mason, Chief of the Wildlife Division, as well as Mr. Bill Moritz, Deputy Director since there has been continued discussions at the CAC level. The DNR will work with the Department of Agriculture to begin discussions. **Chair Pershinske** will be working on this issue with Mrs. Welling Haughey.

### **New Business**

**Chair Pershinske** stated that a Resolution of Congratulations was prepared honoring Conservation Officer Mike Hammill. **Lt. Hagy** noted there was stiff competition with other officers across the state and CO Hammill is very deserving of this honor. This is the second UP officer chosen two years in a row. **Mr. Buckingham made a motion to approve the Resolution of Congratulations for**

**CO Hammill; Mr. DuFour seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Duke, Mr. Ford, Mr. Meier, Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Radecki. Motion carried.**

### **Next Meeting**

1. **Approval of 2013 Meeting Dates:** The meeting dates for 2013 were located on the back of the meeting agenda. **Ms. Giddings made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2013; Mr. Hass seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Duke, Mr. Ford, Mr. Meier, Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Radecki. Motion carried.**
2. **Next Meeting Date:** **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> in Newberry.
3. **Items for Next Agenda:** **Chair Pershinske** stated if there are any agenda items the Council would like to add for the next meeting, please contact him.

### **Public Comments**

- **Mr. Kip Cameron** asked if the moose survey for the west UP is primarily evaluating the herd from the 1980's. **Mr. Minzey** stated that the survey will happen in January and all flights will take place west of Marquette. There are fewer moose in the east UP. He indicated the survey will monitor the population for which the proposal was to have a hunt, to see if a hunt is feasible. If there was a hunt established, it would not take place in the east UP.
- **Mr. Joe Caswell** stated that it took 48 hours to respond to a complaint he had about burning at a local sawmill; **Lt. Hagy** replied he will answer Mr. Caswell's questions.

### **Closing Comments from the Council**

- **Chair Pershinske** thanked members for their service over the last year and again thanked those members who will be leaving after this meeting. He stated the EUPCAC has a good reputation for doing a good job, and he extends his appreciation for making it work. Council members are the ones to be complimented. **Mr. DeVillez** thanked the Council for four good years and thanked Mrs. Welling Haughey for inviting him to participate; **Mr. DuFour** echoed the same sentiments.
- **Mr. Hass** informed the Council that there is illegal gold mining occurring on the shore of Lake Superior in the area. Two individuals have been digging up the black soil and selling it. It has been reported; however, if they are seen again, please notify officials.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm EST.